

FOCUS ON THE FIRST

MONTHLY CONSTITUENT NEWSLETTER

COUNCILMAN CHRIS FORD—1ST COUNCIL DISTRICT
LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS SLATED FOR CAPITAL REINVESTMENT

The Urban County Council recently finalized the allocation of prior budget year surplus for capital projects throughout the city. As of June 30, 2013, LFUCG had an unassigned fund balance of approximately \$15 million. Working collaboratively with Mayor Gray's administration, the Council prioritized, vetted and ultimately approved funding for 30 capital – related projects.

In summary, the Council prioritized funds in these major areas:

<i>Financial – Savings & Encumbrances</i>	\$7,090,740	47%
<i>Public Safety – Capital Items</i>	\$4,515,000	30%
<i>Parks & Recreation Facilities</i>	\$1,980,550	13%
<i>Infrastructure – Buildings & Streets</i>	\$1,390,010	10%



1st Council District priorities focused on neighborhood parks, and a total of \$466,550 was approved for the following improvements:

- ◆ **Castlewood Park (\$100,000)**
To enhance ADA – accessibility at the swimming pool
Note: Sponsored by Council Member – At Large Steve Kay
- ◆ **Charles Young Park (\$67,500)**
To incorporate landscaping & other amenities in the currently vacant Shropshire Avenue green space (fka Ann Street).
- ◆ **Douglass Park (\$149,050)**
To construct a new playground, walking trail and to relocate football fields
- ◆ **Dunbar Community Center (\$150,000)**
To replace 20 windows on 2nd & 3rd floor at this historic landmark

The City's Rainy Day Fund is currently \$23.3 million. The FY 2014 budget, which ends on June 30, 2014, is approximately \$298 million.



Chris Ford
Councilman, 1st District

CALENDAR:

Nov 9: Free Paper Shred Day 9am-2pm (1631 Old Frankfort Pike)

Nov 11: Veterans Day

Nov 14: NAACP Freedom Dinner 6:30pm (Lyric Theatre)

Nov 23: Robert H. Williams Cultural Center Centennial Gala 6pm (Hilton Downtown)

Nov 28: Thanksgiving Day (LFUCG Closed 28-29)

Nov 28: Salvation Army Free Thanksgiving Dinner 12-1:30pm (Salvation Army)

Nov 29: Christmas Tree Lighting 6:30pm (Triangle Park)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FLOOD PROJECT	2
DEDICATIONS	2
MR. QUILLINGS	3
DAY SHELTER ZOTA	3
LEAF COLLECTION	3
WELCOME RATCHFORD	4
USEFUL NUMBERS	4

GREEN ACRES—HOLLOW CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT UPDATE

Officials with the LFUCG Division of Engineering held a Community Update meeting on September 23rd for residents of the Green Acres – Hollow Creek – Breckenridge area to discuss the ongoing Flood Control project. Approximately \$1.7 million has been expended thus far for acquisition of flood prone homes, easement acquisition, fence reconstruction, and flood proofing of dozens of homes. In addition, infrastructure controls have been installed throughout the neighborhood to mitigate litter and storm water debris which has historically polluted the creek.

This fall, engineers are finalizing plans for sewer line replacement which will benefit the entire neighborhood. This investment is estimated to cost approximately \$900,000. Construction is scheduled to begin in early spring 2014. State funding for these projects was secured by state Representative Jesse Crenshaw of the 77th Legislative District.



COMMUNITY DEDICATES TRANSY ATHLETIC FIELDS & EAST END MURAL

Saturday, October 19th was not an ideal weather day in the Bluegrass. While it was unseasonably cold, cloudy & drizzly outside, it was still a heart – felt day for two special communities of District 1. Official dedication ceremonies were held at Transylvania University & the Charles Young Center, to scores of well wishers & supporters.

Transylvania University's new athletic complex is located at 555 W. Fourth Street. *Dr. Owen Williams*, Transy's president, gave welcoming remarks and was joined by several Transy athletic squads. I was fortunate to briefly attend & to serve witness to a thrilling ending to the first official athletic competition, as the women's soccer team won its match vs. Rose-Hulman 1 – 0, in overtime. Transy's student – athletes surely have a special treasure to be proud of. Kudos & congrats to the entire Pioneer family!

The East End Mural was officially dedicated in a ceremony at the Charles Young Center. Over 100 folks attended the event including myself, *Vice Mayor Linda Gorton* & *Council Member Steve Kay*. The mural is the work of local East End native *Sundiata Rashid*, and it spotlights the rich cultural history of Lexington's East End.

A special highlight of the ceremony was the presence of internationally – acclaimed jazz legend *Les McCann*. Mr. McCann (whose image is reflected in the mural) returned home to perform at the Lyric Theatre's anniversary celebration concert recently.

The East End Mural project is a collaboration of the Tweens Coalition, LexArts & other community partners. I'd encourage everyone to visit the site, at the corner of E. Third and Race Streets, for an up close viewing of the mural. Again, I must echo my salute of Mr. Rashid, for his excellent artistic display & for sharing his talent with our community!



ST. MARTIN'S VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD LEADS EFFORT TO NAME PARKS FACILITY IN HONOR OF CHARLES H. QUILLINGS

On September 26, the Urban County Council adopted a resolution approving the naming of the Community Building at the Whitney Young Park in honor of the late *Charles H. Quillings*. The St. Martin's Village Neighborhood Association led the effort, by petitioning the LFUCG Parks Advisory Board. After two (2) successive reading before the Parks Board, the formal recommendation was forwarded to Urban County Council for approval.

The late *Charles H. Quillings* is widely known for serving as a music teacher at the original Dunbar High School. But Mr. Quillings was also, as vividly described by the neighborhood association, a dedicated neighbor who worked for over 30 years for the betterment of Whitney Young Park.

St. Martin's Village was developed in the mid 1950s. Mr. Quillings' family was one of the neighborhood's first residences, and they lived there for nearly 50 years. Mr. Quillings passed away in 2011, at the age of 90. Residents of St. Martin's Village are represented by both myself (1st District) and Council Member Shevawn Akers (2nd District).



Photo Source: Lexington Herald Leader, March 24, 2011

ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT NOW ENSURES CITIZEN INPUT

After nearly two (2) years of planning & deliberation, the Urban County Council adopted a resolution which more clearly defines socially – based *Day Shelters* & clinically – based *Adult Day Care* centers. Also, the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment, or ZOTA, classifies Day Shelters as Conditional Uses in the P-1, P-2, B-1 and B-2 zones. As such, Day Shelters which are proposed to operate in these aforementioned zones are now required to petition the Board of Adjustment for approval of a Conditional Use Permit. Furthermore, neighboring constituents (whether residential, commercial, institutional or educational) will be afforded the opportunity to participate in the required Public Hearing associated with a Conditional Use Permit application.

This ZOTA policy formulation has been extensive, in both duration & deliberation. As the issue of homelessness, and the services geared towards populations of underserved & disadvantaged citizens, is a complex and often sensitive issue, great energy has been dedicated to closely examining all policy impacts of this ZOTA, both seen and unforeseen.

Prior to this proposed legislation, the Zoning Ordinance did not list a definition (by use) of either an *Adult Day Care* or *Day Shelter*. Also, in 2011, LFUCG internally revamped the permitting process to designate the Division of Planning with the responsibility of issuing Zoning Compliance Permits; prior to, this task was located within the Division of Building Inspection. In recap, the Urban County Council initiated the ZOTA via resolution in spring 2012. The Planning Commission reviewed & ultimately approved recommendation of ZOTA in July 2012. In the interim, the Mayor's blue – ribbon Commission on Homelessness published its recommendations in January 2013; none of which conflict with the legislative intent of the proposed ZOTA.



MARK THE START OF NEIGHBORHOOD LEAF COLLECTION

LFUCG will begin its annual Leaf Collection program on November 18. Leaf collection is available for Fayette County residents who receive LFUCG curbside waste collection services. To find out when leaf collection crews will be working in your neighborhood, residents may visit the LFUCG website at www.lexingtonky.gov/leaves. Also, you may call LexCall by dialing 311, or (859) 425-2255.





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**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO WELCOME MALCOLM RATCHFORD,
NEW COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Malcolm Ratchford, the newly – appointed Executive Director of the Community Action Council, has been invited to the Social Services & Community Development Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 19th. Mr. Ratchford succeeds long time CAC Director *Jack Burch*, who retired in June after 34 years of service.

The Community Action Council is a non – profit organization of 275 employees whose primary focus is to fight poverty in the central Kentucky area. The organization has a strong physical footprint & history of service in the 1st Council District. In addition, the annual Community Action Council Poverty Forum was held at the Lyric Theatre earlier this fall. The event’s keynote speaker was Tulane University professor & MSNBC political commentator, *Dr. Melissa Harris – Perry*.

Malcolm is a graduate of Talladega College and University of Kentucky, and has spent nearly 17 years in the Community Action Council organization. His visit with the Committee will allow him to share a brief report on the transitional period, as well as his vision for the organization.

Councilman Ford serves as Chairman of the Council’s Social Services & Community Development Committee. The meeting begins at 11:00 AM, and is open to the public. The meeting will also be televised live on Government Television GTV3 (Time Warner Cable, channel 3).

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

LexCall (City Hall)	311 or 425-2255
Police (Non-emergency)	258-3600
Fire (Non-emergency)	231-5600
Crime Stoppers	253-2020
Waste Collection	311 or 425-2255
Code Enforcement	311 or 425-2255
Senior Citizens Center	278-6072
County Clerk	253-3344
Property Valuation Administrator	246-2722
Animal Care & Control	255-9033
Humane Society	233-0044
Health Department	252-2371
Kentucky Utilities	255-0394
Kentucky American Water	269-2386
Columbia Gas	288-0215
Time Warner Cable	514-1400
United Way	211

